



Montana gets \$11.5M for struggling schools

[Denise Juneau](#) The Billings Gazette | Posted: Saturday, July 24, 2010 12:00 am

HELENA — Montana will receive an \$11.5 million federal grant to help turn around up to seven of the state's struggling schools, the state's top education official said Thursday.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau said high schools in Frazer, Lame Deer, Pryor and Lodge Grass will receive the grants, along with two elementary schools in Pryor. The Hays Lodge Pole school district is also eligible and plans to apply for a portion of the money this summer.

They have been identified as the state's persistently lowest achieving schools, defined as either ranking in the lowest 5 percent of public schools or having a graduation rate lower than 60 percent.

To receive the money, federal guidelines dictate the school districts must implement one of four dramatic reform plans that range from closing the problem school to firing the principal and at least half of the teachers.

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